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BEFORE THE

Federal Communications Commission NOV 14 1991

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In re the Matter of

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING
BY AMERICAN MOBILE
SATELLITE CORPORATION

RM-7806

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS

Aerospace & Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council ("AFTRCC"), by its counsel, hereby replies to the Consolidated Comments and Petition to Deny of Satellite CD Radio, Inc. ("SCDR").

In its comments SCDR critiques numerous aspects of the American Mobile Satellite Corporation ("AMSC") proposal for reallocation of the band 1515-1525 MHz to the Mobile Satellite Service ("MSS"). AFTRCC does not take issue with SCDR's criticisms of the merits of AMSC's proposal; on the contrary AFTRCC concurs with SCDR's bottom line, i.e. that there is no basis whatsoever for the suggested MSS re-allocation.

In one important respect, however, AFTRCC takes strong exception to SCDR's Consolidated Comments, namely SCDR's suggestion that the flight test band should be allocated for it -- not AMSC. In point of fact, SCDR has no more persuasive a claim to L-band spectrum than AMSC. Both parties have advanced claims which would

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further the interests of their private shareholders at exorbitant cost to federal taxpayers and the nation's single most important source of export earnings -- the aerospace industry.^{1/} It is for these and similar reasons that the Executive Branch joined the aerospace industry in vigorously opposing the notion of any L-band reallocation to digital audio broadcasting ("DAB"). This brings us to the second point.

Despite SCDR's rhetoric in favor of a satellite DAB allocation at L-band, the Commission itself has now determined to the contrary, i.e. determined to advocate a 2310-2360 MHz allocation for satellite DAB. This position was announced in a News Release issued October 31, just two weeks after the filing of SCDR's Consolidated Comments. Moreover, on the very next day (November 1) SCDR amended its pending applications to substitute S-band frequencies (2310-2360 MHz) for those it had vainly sought from the L-band.^{2/} Thus, it appears that even SCDR has now accepted the proposition that the L-band is simply not on the table insofar as the United States position for the WARC is concerned. SCDR's assertions to the contrary in its Consolidated Comments are thus beside the point and quite entirely moot.

^{1/} AFTRCC hereby incorporates by reference its various filings on SCDR's Petition for Rulemaking (RM-7400) and its filings in General Docket No. 89-554.

^{2/} Actually SCDR's amendment specifies 2310-2370 MHz, which is in conflict with the express terms of the cover letter transmitting the amendment (the letter specifies 2310-2360 MHz). More about this later.

Accordingly, for these and the reasons stated in AFTRCC's opening Comments, proposals for reallocation of the band 1515-1525 MHz should be rejected out-of-hand.

Respectfully submitted,

AEROSPACE & FLIGHT TEST RADIO
COORDINATING COUNCIL

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November 14, 1991

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

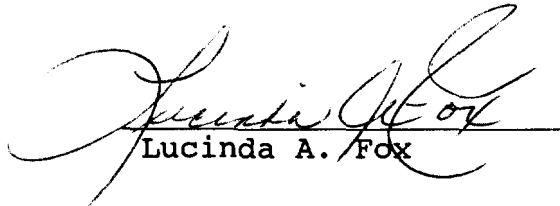
I, Lucinda A. Fox, hereby certify that I have this 14th day of November 1991 caused the attached "Reply Comments" to be deposited in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

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